

City of Fitchburg Disability Commission Meeting

Date	January 13, 2016
Location	Library Garden Room

Commission Members:

Name	Present	Absent	Remote
Jeffrey Wolfgang	X		
Bill Tolos	X		
Doris Matte		X	
Mary Ann Guichard		X	
Sheela Tallamraju	X		
Marshal Haneisen	X		
Sharon Tardiff	X		

Guest: Amy LeBlanc

Meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes – Reviewed and approved November and December minutes.

Agenda Item 2: Announcements, Notices and Events – None

Agenda item 3: Special Guest Kim Maxwell – Did not attend.

Agenda item 4: Fitchburg State University – Bill Tolos reported that representatives from the Disability Commission had met with Ms. Murdoch of Fitchburg State University to discuss the items reported in the Commission's earlier letter to the University. Sheela Tallamraju explained that she and Bill gave a slide show presentation of the various items raised. Fitchburg State University staff indicated that they wish the person who raised the issues to the Commission had gone through the proper channels within the University first. Sheela explained that the individual had indeed spoken with University departments and suggested that possibly transitions had impacted the matters not being resolved. Ms. Murdoch explained that some issues take longer to resolve though she was not specific in explaining the timeframe when certain items would be remedied. She further explained that they are audited by two entities. Also stated replacing elevators in the future. The Commission will send a follow-up letter.

Commission received a letter from Jay Bry that included "It was a good opportunity for all of us..."

Agenda item 5: CDBG: Jeffrey reported that it is his understanding that nothing has yet been done to address the matter at the Greek Orthodox Church. Amy reported that there is still approximately \$22,000 in the account for curb-cuts that have been approved and are pending completion.

Marshal Haneisen reported that a parent praised the DPW for putting a sign in the neighborhood for her children with autism.

Agenda item 6: Accessible Playground Equipment – Amy LeBlanc reported that Judy Jollimore notified her of a Playground Committee meeting scheduled for January 13, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the main fire station. Amy will try to go to the meeting and if the opportunity arises to ask about room to grow and fencing for safety.

Agenda item 7: Education Subcommittee/SPED – The Commission agreed that the Education Subcommittee will focus its efforts on the Disability Awareness Event.

Agenda item 8: Housing/Wallace Towers – Recent volunteer activities provided Jeffrey Wolfgang with an opportunity to visit the Wallace Towers, including the 3rd floor which is providing a level of support to residents not necessarily to the the level of assisted living. It is his understanding that that particular floor has another organization in addition to Fitchburg Housing Authority involved in the management

Agenda item 9: Disability Awareness Event – Sheela will contact the coordinator of Best Buddies about the possibility of having Fitchburg High School be the host site for the Resource Event. Also looking into the possibility of a function room at the Civic Center. The Commission brainstormed on the planning and agreed to discuss further at the January 20th planning meeting.

Agenda item 10: New Business – None

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for February 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.